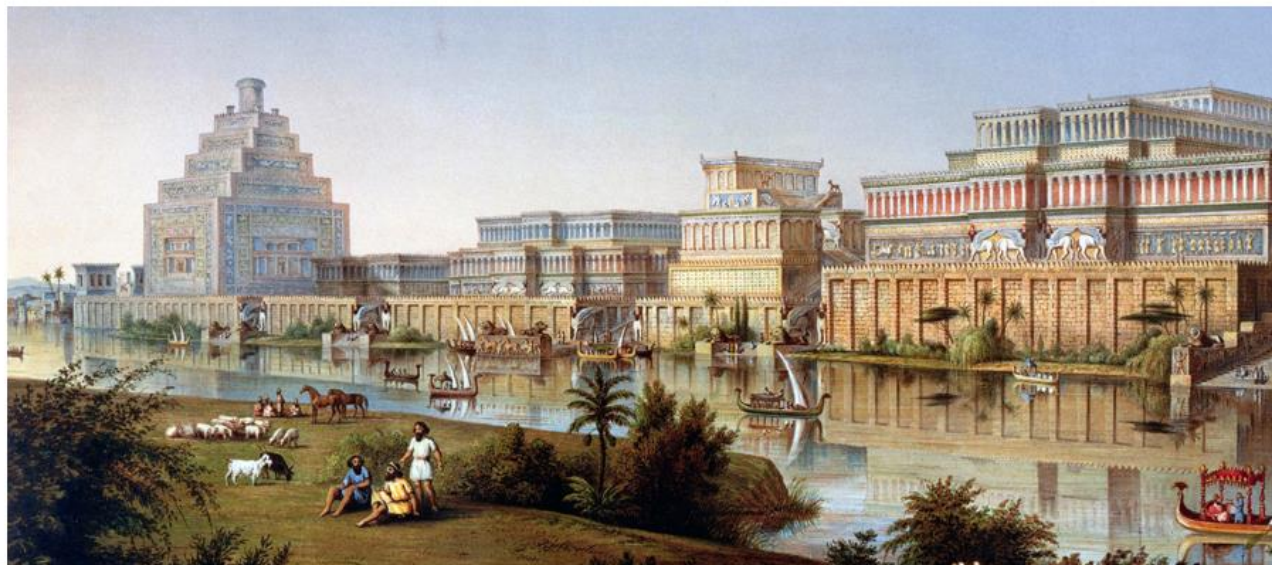




# Ashur Cherry

NAM.DUB.SAR<sup>RA</sup> AMA GÙ.DÉ-KE<sub>4</sub>.E.NE A.A UM.ME.A-KE<sub>4</sub>.EŠ

**“Writing is the mother of speakers, the father of scholars”**





# Determinatives and Markers by Sign Order

## Neo-Assyrian Cuneiform



**Ashur Cherry**  
**York University**  
**Toronto, Ontario**

Copyright © 2017

All rights reserved.

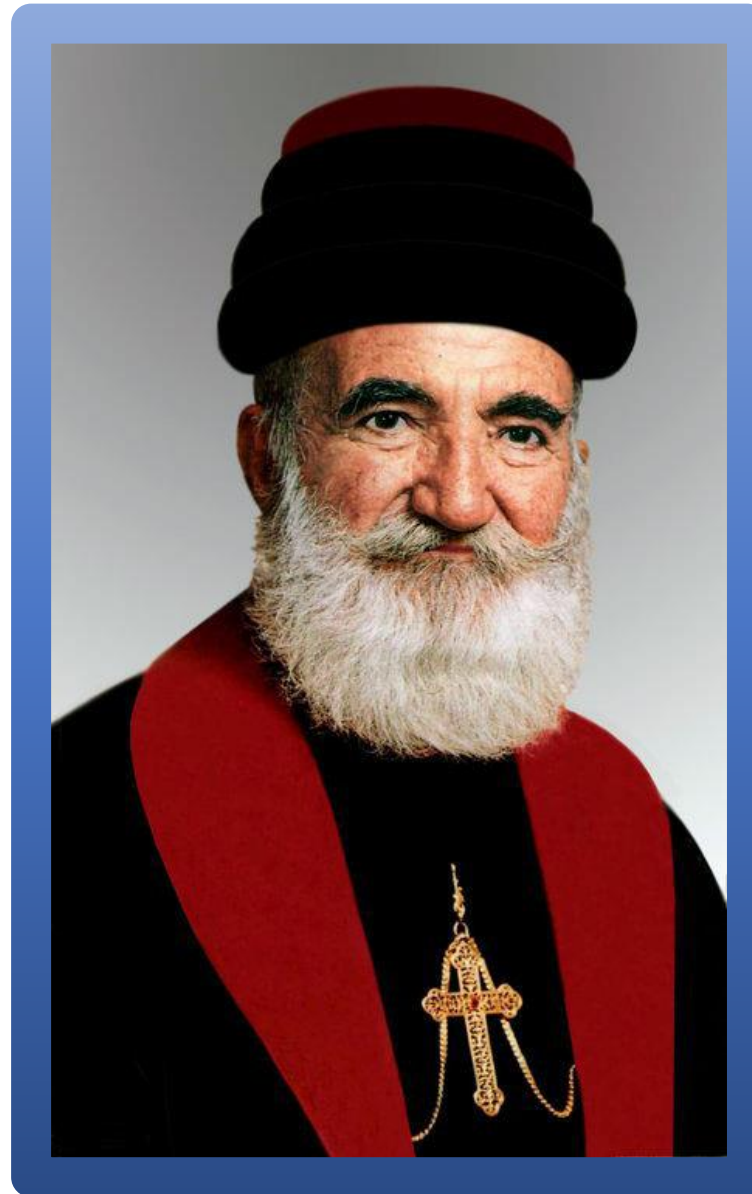
No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author.

## Acknowledgement

Apart from the efforts of myself, the success of any project depends largely on the encouragement of many others. I would like to show my greatest appreciation to my friends, especially late Dr. Goliath Nessian, Mr. Mirza Shmoil, Ms. Iannuzziello, Ms. Zuccarelli, Mr. Durnan, Mr. Storoschuck, Ms. Clarke, Mr. Stuart, and Miss Smith for the encouragement that I have always received from them in publishing my previous books, journal entries and developing my software. Also, I am personally would like to thank my late father, Petros Cherry, for he always supported and encouraged me while working on Assyriological projects.

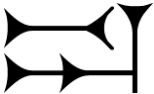

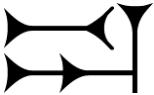













**I dedicate this book in memory of His Holiness † Mar Yousip Khnanisho**  
**Archbishop of Shamisdin and Rustaqa**






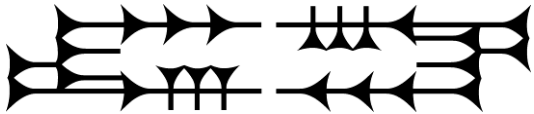

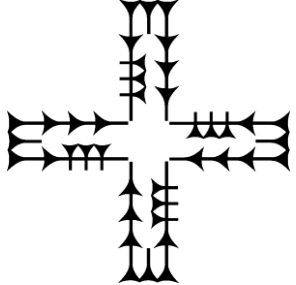


**Seventy-Two Years of Dedication Toward His People, Church and Assyrian Nation**  
**Thursday, May 18, 1893 (Mar Ishoo, Turkey) – Sunday, July 3, 1977 (Baghdad, Iraq)**

Modifiers Overview

Modifier	Meaning	Sign	Example
-gunû	extra wedges	DU 	DU-gunû 
-šeššig	added še-sign	DU 	DU-šeššig 
-tenû	slanting	LÚ 	LÚ-tenû 
-nutillû	unfinished	SAG 	SAG-nutillû 
-zidatenû	slanting right	AŠ 	AŠ-zidatenû 
-kabatenû	slanting left	AŠ 	AŠ-kabatenû 
-<digits>°	rotated	NAGA 	NAGA-180° 

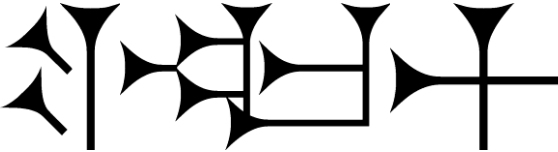






Operators Overview

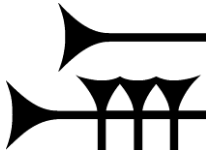
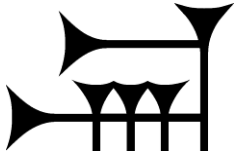
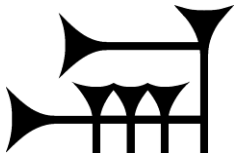

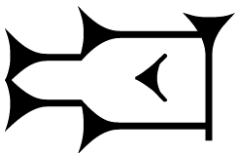


Operator	Meaning	Example	Sign
.	beside	DU . DU	
×	containing	KA×IM	
×	containing/group	GÁ× (AN . GAG . A)	
&	above	DU DU	
⊗	crossing	(AŠ&AŠ&AŠ) ⊗ (AŠ&AŠ&AŠ)	
@	opposing	LUGAL@LUGAL	
3×	repeated	3×AN	
4×	repeated	4×LÚ	






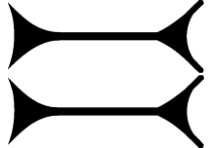
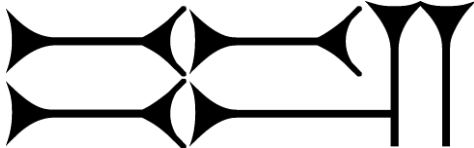








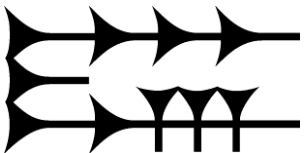











Determinative / Marker	Sign	Description
<i>zabar</i>		determinative: before copper objects (seldom)
<i>uru</i>		determinative: before cities, places
<i>zabar</i>		determinative: before copper objects (seldom)
<i>mušen</i>		determinative: <i>after</i> birds
<i>mušen</i>		determinative: <i>after</i> birds
<i>gi</i>		determinative: before (objects made with) grass, reeds
<i>gada</i>		determinative: before linen garments

Determinative / Marker	Sign	Description
<i>sa</i>		determinative: before woven items and similar
<i>iku</i>		determinative: <i>after</i> surface measures
<i>mul<sub>5</sub></i>		determinative: before stars
<i>elep, má</i>		determinative: before ship designations
<i>urudu</i>		determinative: before metal and metal objects
<i>mul</i>		determinative: before stars, planets; N/LB instead of <i>ul</i> or <i>te/múl</i>
<i>ta.àm</i>		determinative: <i>after</i> distributive numbers



Determinative / Marker	Sign	Description
<i>kám</i>		determinative: <i>after</i> ordinal numbers
<i>uzu</i>		determinative: before parts of the body and pieces of flesh
<i>anše/anšu</i>		determinative: before equids and camels
<i>kaš</i>		determinative: before varieties of beer
<i>šim, šem</i>		determinative: before aromatic and resinous plants and similar
<i>ia<sub>4</sub>, na<sub>4</sub>, zá</i>		determinative: before stones
<i>geš, giš, išu</i>		determinative: before trees, wooden objects, implements







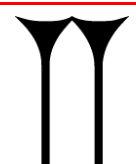
Determinative / Marker	Sign	Description
<i>gu<sub>4</sub>, gud</i>		determinative: before oxen and cows
<i>ú</i>		determinative: before plants and (sometimes) drugs
<i>é</i>		determinative: before buildings and parts of buildings
<i>dug</i>		determinative: before vessels
<i>lú</i>		determinative: before professions, clans, nationalities
<i>sar</i>		determinative: after garden plants
<i>nar</i>		determinative: before musicians (very seldom)

Determinative / Marker	Sign	Description
:		separation marker
:		repetition and separation marker
<i>kur</i>		determinative: before lands and mountains
<i>še</i>		determinative: before grains
<i>múl, te</i>		determinative: before stars
:		separation marker
:		separation marker


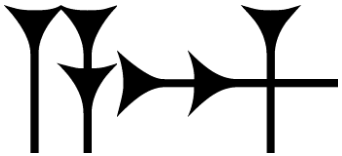











Determinative / Marker	Sign	Description
<i>meš</i>		marker after plurals (mainly logograms) and iterative verbs
<i>íd</i>		determinative: before rivers and canals
<i>túg</i>		determinative: before clothing and cloth
<i>zì, zíd</i>		determinative: before types of meal
<i>udu</i>		determinative: before sheep and goats
<i>síg, sík, siki</i>		determinative: before types of wool and woolen items
<i>II, min</i>		marker <i>after</i> duals



Determinative / Marker	Sign	Description
<i>min</i>		repetition marker
<i>àm</i>		determinative: after ordinal numbers
<i>ta.àm</i>		determinative: after distributive numbers
<i>íd</i>		determinative: before rivers and canals
<i>ḥi.a</i>		marker after plurals and collectives (not persons or deities)
<i>ḥa, ku₆, kua</i>		determinative: after fish
<i>ninda</i>		determinative: before varieties of baked goods



# References

Bord, Lucien-Jean and Remo Mugnaioni. *L'Écriture Cunéiforme: Syllabaire Sumérien, Babylonien et Assyrien*. Paris: Librairie Orientaliste Paul Geuthner S.A., ©2002.

Borger, Riekele, and Rykle Borger. *Mesopotamisches Zeichenlexikon*. Vol. 305. Ugarit Verlag Münster, ©2004.

Ellermeier, Friedrich, and Riekele Borger. *Sumerisches Glossar: Führer durch die neuere sumerologische Fachliteratur. Die sumerischen Lautwerte: nach dem Alphabet, nach den "Zeichennamen" und nach den Keilschriftzeichen geordnet*. Selbstverlag dr. Friedrich Ellermeier, ©1979-©1980.

Labat, René and Florence Malbran-Labat. *Manuel D'Épigraphie Akkadienne: Signes, Syllabaire, Idéogrammes*. 6th ed. Paris: Librairie Orientaliste Paul Geuthner S.A., ©1988.

Miller, Douglas B. and R. Mark Shipp. *An Akkadian Handbook: Paradigms, Helps, Glossary, Logograms, and Sign List*. 2nd ed. Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, ©2014.